

FISHING ROD REST

This invention relates to a rest for a fishing rod or other elongate article. The rest enables the rod to be maintained in an operative position independently of the fisherman, but permits
5 the rod immediately to be freed from the rest when a fish is hooked.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

When a person fishes from a boat having
10 either a cylindrical rail or a gunwale it is conventional for the person to attach a baited hook or lure to the free end of a fishing line and lower the baited hook or lure into the water. In many cases the person simply holds the rod in one or both of his hands
15 while fishing. On occasion, however, it is necessary to stow the rod so that both of the person's hands can be used for other purposes. In such cases it is customary to rest the butt end of the fishing rod on the boat deck or on a shelf which occupies a position
20 at a level between the rail or gunwale and the deck. If the surface of the water is choppy the boat may rock an amount sufficient to cause the rod to slide and fall to the deck or assume an unintended position. This can be an annoyance to the user of the rod, as well as to
25 any companions who may be sharing the boat.

A principal object of the invention is to provide a rest or support for use by a fisherman which

may be mounted on some part of the boat in such manner
as to support and retain a fishing rod in a position in
which it is secure against inadvertent movement and
still make it possible for the fisherman to remove the
5 rod from the rest instantaneously and manipulate the
rod as desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A fishing rod rest or support constructed in
accordance with the invention is adapted for removable
10 attachment to a cylindrical rail of a boat or to the
gunwale of the boat and be clamped thereto in such
manner as to enable retention of a fishing rod in a
selected position without requiring any modification of
any part of the boat. In one embodiment the rest may
15 partially embrace a cylindrical rail and be clamped
thereto by disposable ties. Such rest has an
upstanding projection provided with a notch in which a
portion of the fishing rod removably may be
accommodated.

20 In a second embodiment of the invention the
rest body referred to above is coupled to a pair of
substantially parallel, spaced apart clamp members
between which some part, such as the gunwale, of a boat
may be accommodated. A force applying means may be
25 actuated to move the clamp members toward one another
and clamp the boat part therebetween. In this

embodiment the same body member which was referred to earlier is used, as is the notched extension.

In another embodiment of the invention a support arm may be coupled to one of the clamp members of the second embodiment by the clamping force applying means so as to extend downwardly from the rod rest when the latter is clamped to the gunwale. That end of the arm which is remote from the rod rest preferably has a socket for the removable accommodation of the butt end of the rod. This embodiment is used in those instances in which the distance from the gunwale to the deck is so great as to make it undesirable for the butt end of the rod to rest directly on the deck.

In a further embodiment of the invention the rod supporting arm may be adjustable lengthwise so as to enable a rod to be supported at any selected one of a number of different levels. The arm is composed of movable sections which may be maintained in a selected position of adjustment by latch means.

THE DRAWINGS

Several embodiments of the invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is an isometric view of one fishing rod rest assembled with a cylindrical rail forming part of a boat;

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view of the apparatus shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an isometric view of the rest shown in Figures 1 and 2 coupled to a pair of clamp members between which the gunwale of a boat is clamped, a fishing rod being shown in chain lines;

5 Figure 4 is an exploded, isometric view of the embodiment shown in Figure 3;

Figure 5 is an end elevational view of the rest shown in Figure 4 illustrating two different positions of one of the clamp members in the assembly
10 of the rest;

Figure 6 is an isometric view of the rest shown in Figures 3-5 and including an extensible and retractable rod-support arm;

Figure 7 is a sectional view on an enlarged
15 scale and taken on the line 7-7 of Figure 6; and

Figure 8 is an sectional view taken on the line 8-8 of Figure 6.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The embodiment disclosed in Figures 1 and 2
20 comprises a body 1 formed of suitable material, such as nylon, having a concavo-convex base 2 which preferably, but not necessarily, is formed on a radius corresponding substantially to that of a cylindrical support or rail 3 forming part of a boat (not shown).
25 The arcuate base terminates at its opposite ends in flanges 4 and 5, respectively. The flange 4 has a pair of spaced slots 6 and the flange 5 has a similar pair

of spaced slots 7. The flange 5 is joined integrally to an extension 8 having a V-shaped notch 9 extending obliquely upward from the free edge of the extension and terminating at its free end in a circular recess
5 10.

To assemble the body 1 with the rail 3 the arcuate base 2 is placed in overlying relation to the rail and flexible, plastic clamp or tie members 11 of known kind are threaded through the paired slots 6 and
10 7. Each tie member has at one end thereof a loop 12 through which the free end 13 of the tie member may be extended. Each loop has an inwardly projecting rib (not shown) which is adapted to engage in any one of a number of grooves 14 formed in the tie member.

15 Following the threading of the tie members through the paired slots 6 and 7 and through the loops 12 the tie members will embrace the rail 3 in overlying relation to the arcuate base 2 and clamp the latter snugly against the rail.

20 The rest 1 should be so oriented on the rail 3 that the extension 8 extends obliquely upwardly in a direction inwardly of the boat. In this position of the rest a fishing rod (not shown) may have its butt end placed on the deck, or on a shelf or other surface
25 between the deck and the rail, with an intermediate portion of the rod accommodated in the notch 9. In this position the rod will be restrained against

inadvertent movement longitudinally of the rail.
Depending on the thickness of the rod it may be snapped
into the recess 10 so as to provide a more secure
support for the rod. In any event, the rod easily may
5 be withdrawn from the rest and manipulated by the
fisherman as desired.

The embodiment of the invention shown in
Figures 3-6 includes the body 1, the arcuate base 2,
the flanges 4 and 5, and the extension 8. The flanges
10 have the paired slots 6 and 7. In lieu of the tie
members 11, however, this embodiment includes a clamp
15 comprising a pair of corresponding leg members 16
and 17 which confront one another but are spaced apart.
The members 16 and 17 are bridged by and coupled to the
15 base 2 by anchor lugs 18 and 19 at the upper edges of
the members 16 and 17 and are of such size as to pass
through the slots 6 and 7. The clamp member 16 is
channel shaped and has an upper portion 20 and a lower
portion 21 which are angularly offset from one another
20 by a shoulder 22. The clamp member 16 also has side
rails 23 at its opposite sides so that the clamp member
is substantially channel shaped. The clamp member 17
has upper and lower sections 24 and 25, respectively,
which are offset from one another so as to form a
25 shoulder 27 therebetween. The member 17 has side rails
28 like the side rails 23.

The portion 20 of the clamp member 16 has an opening 29 therein and the portion 24 of the clamp member 17 has an opening 30 therein through which a threaded, adjustable clamp screw 31 may extend. A
5 correspondingly threaded wingnut 32 is adapted to receive the screw 31 at one end of the latter. The opposite end of the screw has a head 33.

To condition the embodiment shown in Figures 3-5 for use, the mounting lugs 18 and 19 are thrust
10 through the paired slots 6 and 7 of the body member 1. Preferably, the lugs 18 and 19 are slightly curved or hooked for the purpose of assisting in retaining the lugs in the respective openings. Following assembly of the parts 1, 15, and 16 the clamp screw 31 is extended
15 through the openings 29 and 30 and the wingnut 32 threaded onto the free end of the screw. Rotation of the wingnut in one direction will enable the members 15 and 16 to move toward one another and decrease the spacing therebetween.

20 Following assembly of the clamp screw and nut with the other parts of the rod rest, the latter may be placed atop a support, such as the gunwale 34 of a boat, so that the shoulders 22 and 27 rest atop the gunwale. The wingnut 32 then may be adjusted to cause
25 the clamp members to move toward one another and clamp the assembly on the gunwale. Since the clamp screw is located at a level between the body 1 and the gunwale

34 there is no interference by either of these parts with the adjustment of the clamp members.

5 The positioning of the rod rest on the gunwale should be such that the extension 8 extends upwardly and inwardly of the boat. In this position a rod R may have its butt end placed on the deck of the boat and be inclined upwardly so that an intermediate portion of the rod is accommodated in the notch 9 in the manner earlier described.

10 The embodiment shown in Figures 6-8 utilizes a clamp corresponding in all respects to the clamp 15. This embodiment also includes an extensible and retractable arm 36 having a first section 37 terminating at one end in a mounting flange 38 which
15 may be placed against the portion 20 of the clamp member 16. The flange 38 has an opening therein for the accommodation of the clamp screw 31. The arm section 37 is restrained against rotation relative to the clamp 15 by the side rails 23. The mounting flange
20 38 terminates at its lower end in a step 39 which accommodates the shoulder 22 and then flares obliquely in a direction toward the deck of the boat.

The arm section 37 is accommodated in a second, slideable arm section 40 comprising a wall 41
25 having sides 42 terminating in inwardly turned flanges 43 which are effective to retain the extension 37 while

enabling the section 40 to slide relative to the section 37.

Adjacent its free end the slideable section 40 is provided with a flange 44 on which is supported a
5 socket 45. The socket is of such size as freely to accommodate the butt end of the fishing rod R.

The arm section 37 is provided with a plurality of spaced apart openings 46 each of which is of such size as to accommodate a latch projection 47
10 which is provided on the underside of a flexible latch finger 48 forming an integral part of the slide 40. The finger 48 also is resilient and normally is self-biased to a position in which the projection 47 will enter any selected one of the openings 46 when the
15 finger is released. The finger is manipulable by displacing the projection occupying an opening in a direction out of such opening.

In this embodiment the slide section 40 is adjustable longitudinally of the section 37 so as to
20 enable the rod R to be positioned at an appropriate level with respect to the extension 8.

The arm 36 is used in those instances in which the distance between the gunwale 34 and the deck of the boat is greater than that which should be
25 spanned by the fishing rod R. The use of the arm 36 thus enables the butt of the rod to be supported at a higher level than otherwise would be the case.

In each of the disclosed embodiments a rod may be supported in such manner as to preclude inadvertent movement of the fishing rod in a direction along a path extending side to side of the notched extension 8. Nevertheless, because of the provision and configuration of the notch 9 in the extension 8 the rod instantly may be removed from the rod rest in a direction transversely of such path whenever desired.

A particular advantage of the apparatus disclosed herein is that a fisherman may obtain and use the body 1 with or without the clamp 15. Another advantage is that, if the clamp 15 is used, it may be used with or without the adjustable arm 36. Thus, the fisherman need not acquire more parts than he desires.

The disclosed embodiments are representative of presently preferred forms of the invention, but are intended to be illustrative rather than definitive thereof. The invention is defined in the claims.